

Surface Transportation Board

Finance Docket No. 35087

Canadian National Railway Company, Grand Trunk Corporation
–Control–
Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad

Guide to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) evaluates the potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad by the Canadian National Railway and Grand Trunk Corporation, together with its affiliates (CN). The Surface Transportation Board (Board), Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), has prepared this document in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA; the Board's environmental rules (49 CFR Part 1105); and other applicable environmental statutes and regulations.

This Draft EIS is consistent with NEPA, the CEQ regulations, and the Board's environmental rules. It describes the Proposed Action, alternatives, the existing environment potentially affected by the Proposed Action, the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and the alternatives, and the proposed mitigation measures. Specifically, the Draft EIS contains the following volumes:

Executive Summary

- The **Executive Summary** provides an overview of the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, the alternatives that SEA developed for study and evaluated in the Draft EIS, the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and each alternative, and SEA's recommendations for mitigation.

Volume 1: Chapters 1 through 3

- **Chapter 1, "Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action"** specifies the underlying purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. It also sets forth the jurisdiction of the Board, and outlines SEA's environmental review process. In addition, this chapter presents an overview of SEA's agency coordination activities.
- **Chapter 2, "Proposed Action and Alternatives"** describes the alternatives studied in the Draft EIS, as well as other alternatives and proposed modifications to the Proposed Action that SEA considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. A table compares the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and those of the alternatives.
- **Chapter 3, "Affected Environment"** describes, by environmental resource category, the existing natural and human resources in the Study Area. Chapter 3 also outlines regulatory requirements, assumptions, and data sources for each category.

Volume 2 also contains a Guide to the Draft EIS, a Glossary of Terms, a List of Acronyms and Abbreviations, the Table of Contents to the Draft EIS, the List of Figures, and the List of Tables in the Draft EIS.

Volume 2: Chapters 4 through 9, Preparers, References, and Index

- **Chapter 4, “Environmental Consequences”** provides the methodology for, and results of, the resource-specific analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and the alternatives.
- **Chapter 5, “Indirect Impacts and Cumulative Effects”** identifies indirect impacts and their magnitude; describes the impacts of the Proposed Action and the alternatives when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the Study Area.
- **Chapter 6, “Mitigation”** describes mitigation measures recommended to minimize the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and the alternatives. Chapter 6 also presents the Applicants’ proposed Voluntary Mitigation Measures.
- **Chapter 7, “Short-Term Use versus Long-Term Productivity”** discusses the relationship between the short-term uses of the affected environment for the Proposed Action and the alternatives as well as the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity of the environment.
- **Chapter 8, “Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources”** describes the use of nonrenewable resources for the Proposed Action and the alternatives as well as the effects that this use could have on future generations.
- **Chapter 9, “Outreach and Coordination”** details SEA’s outreach to the public, coordination with agencies, and scoping efforts related to preparation of the EIS.

Volume 2 also includes the following:

- **List of Preparers**, which lists the names and qualifications of all the individuals primarily responsible for preparing the EIS.
- **References**, which lists the sources of information used in preparing the EIS.
- **Index**, which lists names, places, and key topics alphabetically, together with the page numbers on which they occur in the EIS.

The Draft EIS also includes **Appendices** containing the detailed analyses conducted in each technical discipline and the results reached, including methods, extensive tables, and other pertinent data. Additional appendices contain public outreach and agency consultation information and documents, public outreach materials, relevant Board decisions, and information request from and provided by CN. The Final EIS will include the public comments received on this Draft EIS. The **Appendices** are organized as follows:

Volume 3: Appendices A through E

- Appendix A – Public Outreach and Agency Coordination Materials
- Appendix B – Rail Operations Analysis
- Appendix C – Rail Safety Analysis
- Appendix D – Safety Integration Plan
- Appendix E – Transportation Systems Analysis

Volume 4: Appendices A through E

- Appendix F – Hazardous Waste Sites
- Appendix G – Land Use Analysis
- Appendix H – Socioeconomic Analysis
- Appendix I – Environmental Justice Analysis
- Appendix J – Energy Analysis
- Appendix K – Air Quality Analysis
- Appendix L – Noise Analysis

Volume 5: Appendices M through R

- Appendix M – Biological Resources Analysis
- Appendix N – Water Resources Analysis
- Appendix O – Cultural Resources Analysis
- Appendix P – Relevant Board Decisions
- Appendix Q – SEA Information Requests and CN Responses
- Appendix R – Applicants' Voluntary Mitigation Proposal